News Release

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Onion Man Triathlon on May 28 will delay Bennington Lake traffic

Walla Walla, Wash. -- Organizers of the seventh annual Onion Man Triathlon have asked for and received permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use nearby Bennington Lake for parts of their May 28 event, according to a Corps recreation official. This triathlon will close the access road to and from the lake to vehicle traffic for the safety of competitors who will swim, ride and run.

"Reservoir Road will be temporarily closed to public traffic for a short period from about 9 a.m. until around 10 a.m.," said Steve Thompson, a Corps park ranger at the Mill Creek Project Office.

The day's events start at 9 a.m. with a one-kilometer swim at the lake, followed by a 40-K bicycle route starting from the lake, moving to an off-site course and returning to the lake via Reservoir Road, and finishing up with a 10-K run using the bike path through Rook's Park. Following the competition, event participants will hold their awards presentation ceremonies and barbeque at Rook's Park.

"We want to make sure that people know that all our facilities at the lake and in the park will be open to the general public on the day of the event as always. We'll be operating on regular summer weekend schedules. However, there will be times on May 28 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., where traffic congestion may occur during the bike and run events. Traffic in and out could be delayed due to these events," Thompson said. "We recognize that this is a holiday weekend and apologize for the temporary inconvenience these delays may cause to our visiting public."

For information about the Corps' Mill Creek Project, which includes Bennington Lake and Rook's Park, call Natural Resource Manager Dave Hays or Park Ranger Steve Thompson at

(509) 527-7160. For more information about the Onion Man Triathlon, contact event organizers at (509) 529-9187.

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